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Message Text

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72 (40)
ACTION ARA-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-14 L-02 EB-03 IO-03 SAM-01 SPC-01

INR-10 DRC-01 RSC-01 /047 W
---------- 095348
P R 152110Z FEB 74
FM AMEMBASSY PORT OF SPAIN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6066
INFO AMEMBASSY MEXICO CITY
AMEMBASSY BRIDGETOWN
AMEMBASSY GEORGETOWN
AMEMBASSY KINGSTON
AMEMBASSY NASSAU
AMEMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
AMEMBASSY PORT AU PRINCE

C O N F I D E N T I A L PORT OF SPAIN 413

STADIS//

LIMDIS

C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 413 VICE 4130)

EEMO. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, OAS, TD, ENRG
SUBJECT: MINISTER JOSEPH DISCUSSES MEXICO OAS MEETING OF FOREIGN MINISTERS

REF: A. POS 391; B. POS 404; C. POS 363

1. SUMMARY. DR. CUTHBERT JOSEPH, MINISTER IN MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS, CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS AFTERNOON, FEB 15, TO EXPRESS PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS' APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY KISSINGER'S PERSONAL LETTER AND TO DISCUSS FORTHCOMING OAS FOREIGN MINISTERS' MEETING. END SUMMARY.

2. JOSEPH REFERRED TO EARLIER USG REQUEST TO OAS THAT AGENDA ITEM NO. 8 (GENERAL OUTLOOK OF RELATIONS BETWEEN LATIN AMERICA
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AND US) BE PLACED FIRST ON AGENDA AND THAT AN ADDITIONAL ITEM

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REGARDING ENERGY BE ADDED TO AGENDA. HE INDICATED GOTT UNDERSTANDING THAT OVERVIEW OF RELATIONS WAS IMPORTANT TO SET PERSPECTIVE AND ASSIST IN SETTING HIGH POLITICAL TONE FOR MEETING WHICH SECRETARY REFERRED TO IN HIS LETTER TO DR. WILLIAMS. HOWEVER, GOTT FELT AGENDA AS PROPOSED AT BOGOTA MEETING WAS VALID AND SHOULD BE ADHERED TO.

3. WITH REGARD TO ENERGY, JOSEPH STATED HE HAD JUST RECEIVED MESSAGE FROM MEXICO CITY INDICATING THAT THERE WAS CONSENSUS AT PREPARATORY MEETING THAT ENERGY NOT BE PLACED ON AGENDA AT MEXICO. HE NOTED THAT GOTT HAD CONCLUDED THAT IT SHOULD SUPPORT DISCUSSION OF ENERGY IN WIDEST POSSIBLE INTERNATIONAL FORUM AND WAS THUS ENDORSING ALGERIAN PROPOSAL FOR SPECIAL SESSION OF UNGA AS ANNOUNCED BY PRIME MINISTER LAST NIGHT (REF B).

4. DR. JOSEPH EXPRESSED PRIME MININSTER'S DEEP APPRECIATION FOR SECRETARY'S LETTER AND SUGGESTED THAT IT HAD BEEN DETERMINING FACTOR IN DECISION TO SEND HIM (JOSEPH) TO THE MEXICO CITY MEETING. GOT HAD CONSIDERED ALLOWING ITS REPRESENTATION TO BE HEADED BY AMBASSADOR TO OAS, DR. VICTOR MCINTYRE, WHO IS ALREADY IN MEXICO CITY FOR PREPARATORY MEETINGS. JOSEPH INDICATED THAT PRESSURE OF OTHER BUSINESS, AS SYMBOLIZED BY TV SPEECH TO NATION ON ENERGY MATTERS LAST NIGHT, HAD PRECLUDED DR. WILLIAMS FROM PREPARING WRITTEN RESPONSE TO SECRETARY'S LETTER BUT THAT PRIMIN HAD ASKED HIM TO SEEK FURTHER ELUCIDATION OF USG VIEWS REGARDING ISSUES AT MEXICO MEETING. I THEREUPON RECAPITULATED POINTS MADE AT SUB-REGIONAL CHIEFS OF MISSION MEETING IN KINGSTON AND CONVEYED EARLIER TO DR. JOSEPH ON FEBRUARY 13 WHEN I PRESENTED SECRETARY'S LETTER (REF A).

5. COMMENT: GOTT IS OBVIOUSLY NOT UNHAPPY TO HAVE ENERGY DELETED FROM MEXICO CITY AGENDA, WHERE IT WOULD FIND ITSELF AMONG A MINORITY OF OIL-PRODUCING STATES AND SUBJECT PERHAPS TO INTENSIVE PRESSURES FROM HEMISPHERIC NEIGHBORS FOR CONCESSIONARY ACCESS TO PETROLEUM. GOTT HAS CLEARLY CHOSEN TO OPT FOR INTERNATIONAL ENERGY FORUM WHICH WILL PLACE IT IF POSSIBLE IN ALIGNMENT WITH LARGER PETROLEUM PRODUCERS IN OPEC. WHILE JOSEPH HINTED BROADLY THAT HIS ATTENDANCE AT FONMIN MEETING HAD BEEN DETERMINED ONLY AFTER RECEIPT OF SECRETARY'S LETTER, THIS CONFIDENTIAL

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MOST LIKELY WAS EFFORT SIMPLY TO APPEAR RESPONSIVE TO SECRETARY'S MESSAGE IN ABSENCE OF GOTT AGREEMENT ON SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES SINCE JOSEPH IS SUAVE DIPLOMAT WHO WISHES ALWAYS SHOW APPEARANCE IF NOT SUBSTANCE OF RESPONSIVENESS. PRIME MINISTER WILLIAMS HAD INFORMED ME DIRECTLY ON FEBRUARY 8 THAT JOSEPH WOULD GO TO MEXICO CITY (REF C).
MILLER

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